

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 012171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU, UR, IR

SUBJ: GOK ARMS TALKS WITH USSR

1. KUWAIT'S CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL MUBARAK, TOLD AMBAS-
SADOR STOLTZFUS JANUARY 13 THAT, MUCH AS HE DISAPPROVED
PERSONALLY, KUWAIT WOULD BE SENDING MILITARY MISSION TO
MOSCOW SHORTLY TO LOOK AT SOVIET ARMS. COMMENT WAS MADE
DURING MEETING IN WHICH BOTH CHIEF OF STAFF AND GOK
DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTER SHAYKH SAAD EXPRESSED UN-
HAPPINESS OVER ALLEGED "SLOW U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSES"
TO THEIR REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

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2. AS FAR AS WE AWARE, KUWAITIS HAVE NOT YET INITIATED

ANY SUBSTANTIVE ARMS DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS. GIVEN OBVIOUS CONFLICT OF INTERESTS SOVIETS WILL FACE SHOULD THEY ACTUALLY UNDERTAKE TO MODERNIZE MILITARY FORCE WHOSE MAJOR ROLE WILL BE TO OPPOSE MOSCOW'S CLIENTS IN BAGHDAD, KUWAITI MOVE MIGHT BE DEVICE TO TEST UNITED STATES' WILLINGNESS CONTINUE SUPPORTING KUWAIT'S MILITARY DEVELOPMENT AT TIME WHEN GOK SUSPECTS POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY INHIBIT OUR RESPONSES. SEVERAL DECISIONS REGARDING OUR GENERAL ARMS POLICY TOWARDS ARAB STATES ARE STILL PENDING HERE IN WASHINGTON, BUT SINCE WE CONTINUE PROCESS LETTERS OF OFFER PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO GOK, IT HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY DELAYS IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER, MUCH TIME HAS BEEN LOST BY KUWAIT'S OWN INDECISION EVIDENCED IN CONSTANT REQUESTS FOR REVISED OFFERS AND ITS HAVING ASK FOR UPDATED CONTRACTS TO REPLACE THOSE IT HAS ALLOWED EXPIRE. (THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 50 DOD LETTERS OF OFFER FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT PENDING WITH GOK. A NUMBER OF THESE HAVE EXPIRED DUE KUWAITI INACTION AND REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL REVISIONS). HOWEVER, WE HAVE RESPONDED TO THEIR REQUEST FOR INITIAL TRAINING (LANGUAGE AND BASIC INDOCTRINATION) FOR AIR CADETS. THE TWO ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM WE HAVE HELD UP ON WHILE CONSIDERING POLICY ISSUES ARE F-5E'S AND FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MILITARY MISSION AT EMBASSY (DOD PERSONNEL THERE NOW ARE ON TDY). IN ANY EVENT, GOK HAS NOT YET REQUESTED FORMAL OFFER FOR F 5ES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MISSION IS USG ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER OF ONLY SECONDARY CONCERN TO THEM. RUSH

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